

Message Text

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17

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 NEA-14 ISO-00 AGR-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00

FRB-02 H-03 INR-10 INT-08 L-03 LAB-06 NSAE-00 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 AID-20 CIEP-02 SS-20 STR-08 TAR-02

TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-03 FEA-02 OMB-01 SWF-02

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FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1220

USDOC WASHDC

UNCLAS TRIPOLI 0528

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD LY

SUBJECT: LIBYA ALTERS CUSTOMS TARIFFS ON SELECTED
CONSUMER GOODS

1. PRESS MAY 12 PUBLISHED TREASURY MINISTRY DECISION
TO LOWER CUSTOMS RATES ON CHEAPER CONSUMER GOODS AND
TO INCREASE RATES FOR "LUXURY GOODS". A SPOKESMAN
FOR THE CUSTOMS ADMINISTRATION TOLD US THAT THE NEW
RATES BECAME EFFECTIVE MAY 7.

2. ACCORDING ANNOUNCEMENT, REFRIGERATORS WILL BE
TAXED 20 PERCENT (FORMERLY 25 PERCENT), RADIO RECEIVERS
10 PERCENT (FORMERLY 20 PERCENT), READY-MADE CLOTHING
20 PERCENT (FORMERLY 25 PERCENT), SMALL CARS 30 PERCENT
(FORMERLY 40 PERCENT), AND BICYCLES WILL BE DUTY-FREE
(FORMERLY 10 PERCENT).

3. ARTICLE CONTAINED GENERAL STATEMENT THAT LUXURY
GOODS AND GOODS COMPETING WITH LIBYAN AGRICULTURAL AND
INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION WOULD HAVE HIGHER DUES; HOWEVER,
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NO ITEMS WERE SPECIFIED AND IMPORTERS BELIEVE THIS STILL

UNDER STUDY.

4. ARTICLE DID NOT STATE, BUT IMPORTERS HAVE TOLD US THAT "SMALL CAR" IS DEFINED AS VEHICLE OF 1,500 CC OR LESS ENGINE CAPACITY. DUTY ON MEDIUM-SIZED VEHICLES (DEFINED AS HAVING 1,500 TO 2,700 CC) WILL BE RAISED FROM 55 PERCENT TO 70 PERCENT. TARIFF ON LARGE VEHICLES (OVER 2,700 CC) WILL BE RUISED FROM 55 PERCENT TO 85 PERCENT.

5. PRINCIPAL PURPOSE OF LOWERING TARIFFS IS TO RELIEVE INFLATIONARY PRESSURES ON LOWER INCOME GROUPS.

6. GENERAL MOSBRS AGENT TOLD US HE HAD PLANNED TO IMPORT 600 CHEVROLETS THIS YEAR, A 50 PERCENT INCREASE OVER 1973. NEW DOLLAR EXCHANGE RATE HAD MADE AMERICAN VEHICLES ATTRACTIVE. SINCE ALL CHEVROLETS EXCEED 2,700 CC, HE EXPECTS MARKET TO BE MUCH LOWER THAN EARLIER ANTICIPATED.
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